

To Readers of the Evangelist

For the want of time I cannot write to all who have requested me to, but since most of them take the EVANGELIST I shall ask them to accept this letter instead. My list of friends has greatly increased during the past year, but these new associates have been most pleasant and enjoyable, and I want to express my appreciation of the kindness shown me by all these dear friends.

I am now enjoying "home sweet home" after an absence of nine months, and yet with all the kind and thoughtful attention one receives from loving hearts elsewhere, "There is no place like home." How thankful I am for a home—a Christian home—and for the freedom of a country home.

We are right in the midst of the busy season, which is the busiest time for the farmers in this part of the eastern shore of Maryland. Farmers have from two to twenty-five acres planted in strawberries, and during the latter part of May and first part of June about ten car loads of strawberries are shipped daily to New York from the station at Ridgely alone. They are fine, large berries and it is beautiful to see how the Lord rewards man's labor and patience by giving this luscious fruit which lies in rich clusters on either side of the long green rows.

But you'll be more interested in this part of the country when I tell you that in this place, the first Brethren church in the Peninsula is almost ready to be dedicated.

We are looking forward to this event with delight. Yet we are loath to leave the Philadelphia church. Brother Bowman comes down this week again to preach two nights for us. Who can measure the value of just such mission work? Would that every self-supporting church might thus extend her borders.

We have just seen another result of this same mission work in the dedication of the Brethren church at Allentown, Pa. There they are small in number, but great in zeal and love for the Master's cause. The week I was with them, I learned new lessons of self-sacrifice, and their whole heartedness and enthusiasm is inspiring. We see these glorious results of home missions, we believe in them and act out our faith. We, as true Bible Christians must believe in foreign missions, but why have it as a dead faith any longer. "Faith without works is dead." Let us ask and claim the "more abundant life," which will force out all this dead matter that has been so clogging up our spiritual channel through which the blessed Lord would have that witnessing love flow to all nations. The woe of the heathen, where no one who cares for their soul, is most oppressive, and I long for the freedom that can come only as I realize that my life is being spent for them. Developments in this line seem so slow, but I am learning to say with the Psalmist "Wait, O my soul upon God, for all my expectations is from him."

Yours for Him,

VIANNA DETWILER.

Ridgely, Md.

Zion Hill Church, Ohio

We come again with grateful heart to him that rules and reigns in the destiny of all things, for his goodness and mercies to us all. And what a pleasure to think that God in his wisdom has seen fit to spare the life of every member of the Zion Hill church. Since its organization we have lost none by death. And one more added to the church by baptism yesterday, and in the evening, May 30, we met for communion. We had a very good meeting, largely attended, I think the members were nearly all present. We were indeed glad to have brother P. J. Brown with us, but we felt a little disappointed that we failed to have Brother Gnagey with us, but I presume he had a good excuse or he would have been with us. Our church services are increasing in attendance and interest and we feel encouraged. The invitation is still open to you, Brother Gnagey, to come and preach for us some Sunday. We ask the prayers of God's children in our behalf.

MRS. C. B. SCHLOSSNAGEL.

Wooster, Ohio.

Dayton, Ohio

Sunday evening, May 29th, I had for the first time, the pleasure of hearing Brother Copp expound the word of God to sinners and others in the Brethren mission in this city. The sinner at the judgment was most vividly portrayed by the brother.

The young man who continued to reject his mother's counsel, the dictates of a good conscience, the teachings of the word of God, the wooings of the Holy Spirit, and the wounds of a crucified Savior will eventually find himself in the presence of the judge of the quick and dead without hope. There is no alternative. Now is the accepted time, now is the day of salvation. Whosoever will may come. Let us thank God for that *whosoever*. May the Lord give all grace to accept Him as Savior and abide in His presence with exceeding joy.

The song service conducted by Brother Hall was excellent, lifting the consecrated soul, for the time being, from the troubles of earth to the enjoyment of heaven.

To an invitation given, one young man came forward for Christ. The Lord bless him abundantly. "Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord." May His cause prosper in Dayton.

SAMUEL KIEHL.

Arritts, Va.

It has been a long while since we have reported anything from this field as there was nothing of a striking character in our home work. We kept up the monthly appointments at Arritts and Cross Roads besides occasional services at new points, but as our people here are weak financially the writer gave the greater part of his time to school teaching for six months.

At the request of the brethren at Boon's Chapel in Roanoke county, one of brother D. C. Moomaw's charges, we preached for them from May 1st to 22nd. There had

been quite an ingathering at this place a few months ago, but the immediate result of this meeting was ten additions to the church, although short nights, busy season and much rain hindered the meeting considerably. The last night of the meeting we expected an overflowing house, but the Lord directed otherwise. We had one of the severest rain storms of the season and scarcely a score were present, yet three were added to the fold. Praise God. He rules all things well.

The Lord has blessed this congregation from its organization and these late additions will add much to its strength as they are among the best people of the community.

Our hearts were saddened as we bid farewell for a while to these earnest co-workers for the Lord, but especially so as we clasp hands, probably for the last time with those whom we have learned to love who are yet resisting the loving Savior of their souls. Brother! Sister! (in Adam) may the Spirit lead you to the cleansing fountain.

The work in southwest Virginia has a bright future. Our evangelistic work will soon be centralized and brought to a systematic basis. The harvest is great, the laborers few and in the past the lack of support was the great hindrance, but the Lord is opening the door. Let every child of God in southwest Virginia do their duty and many sheaves for the Master will be the result.

Fraternally,

J. S. BOWMAN.

Brighton, Ind.

A plain fact. The church here numbers between 50 and 60 members. I will submit a summary of mission funds collected or obligated since Christmas, 1897, or in last five and half months. The summary represents the work of the church, the S. S. and the K. C. and a few individual bequests. The funds were received as follows:

Mission offerings and collections,	\$32 67
Individual offerings,	20 00
K. C. pledged for home missions,	5.00
Christmas offering of S. S.,	2.65
Total,	60.32

The same has been expended in the following manner:

Chicago work,	\$41.32
Cuban relief,	5.00
In treasury for home work,	4.00
Paid for home work,	5.00
Pledged for home work,	5.00
Total,	60.32

I am greatly in favor of home work and shall do all I can for success of same. I believe ministers should give as well as preach to give, thus giving a good example to the laity. \$5.00 from every pastor in the state would create great life in state mission work, and accomplish untold good. Let us hold to the truth and stand by the work started. Can we not engender more zeal for home work?

WM. H. MILLER.